

Can You Get 1,000 Miles Per Gallon?

By University Relations

See the cars that get 1,000 MPG in the Super Mileage Challenge in Indianapolis on April 28

INDIANAPOLIS, IN – With gas prices going up, there should be keen interest this weekend in a contest to build vehicles that can go more than 1,000 miles per gallon.

Vincennes University will be one of the sponsors for the 13TH annual Super Mileage Challenge at O'Reilly Raceway Park in Indianapolis on April 28. VU will provide technical inspection facilities and support personnel for the inspection on April 27 at the Aviation Technology Center in preparation for the contest.

Thirty-seven Indiana high schools have entered 49 cars in the two classes of competition. The stock class allows no modification to the engine and will have 25 cars. The unlimited class allows engine modifications and will have 24 entries. The unlimited class cars typically average over 1,000 mpg, and this year the field will be seeking to crack the 1,500 mpg barrier.

The Super Mileage Challenge is held under the auspices of the Indiana Mathematics, Science, and Technology Education Alliance (IMSTEA). IMSTEA is a non-profit, educational organization composed of teachers, administrators, business persons, and concerned citizens. It is dedicated to improving the technological literacy and competence of Indiana's citizens.

Unlimited class entries come from these high schools: Belmont, Delta, Eastern Greene, Fairfield, Frontier, Homestead, Jasper, Kankakee Valley, Lafayette Jefferson, Vincennes Lincoln, Mater Dei, Mishawaka, New Castle Area Career Center, North Montgomery, Princeton Community, Rochester, South Newton, South Spencer, Southridge, Terre Haute South Vigo, Warsaw Community, Wawasee, Whitko, and Winamac.

Stock class entries come from these high schools: Avon, Belmont, Cascade, Chesterton, Crawfordsville, Delta, Forest Park, Greenfield Central, Hagerstown, Hamilton Heights, Jasper, Jennings County, Mater Dei, Mishawaka, New Castle Area Career Programs, North Daviess, North Montgomery, Princeton Community, PVETI Manufacturing Academy, Rochester, Southridge, Sullivan, Triton, Warsaw Community, and Whitko.

Students build their own cars under the supervision of a faculty member. They are responsible for the design and construction of the car and for raising all funds needed for the project. Engines are furnished by Briggs & Stratton Corp., but all other items must be either purchased or donated by sponsors. The students learn not only the technical and scientific aspects of building a high-mileage car, they also learn how to work as a team and solve complex problems.

To be eligible to compete, each school must submit a detailed technical proposal covering all aspects of the design and construction of the car. Such things as aerodynamic drag, friction forces, braking forces and cornering forces must be calculated and discussed in detail. The proposal ensures that the students are exposed to the scientific principles of high mileage as well as the technology of building the car.

These students are the future scientists, engineers, and technicians who will be designing, building, and servicing the cars of the future. What they learn in this event may help them develop more fuel efficient cars in times to come.

The major sponsors of the event are: O'Reilly Raceway Park (track and support personnel), Briggs & Stratton Corp. (engines), Vincennes University (technical inspection facilities, technical inspection dinner, support personnel, cash support), Universal Technical Institute (cash support), Gregg Steele, Mike Fitzgerald, Jim Thompson (trophies), Lucas Oil Products (lubricating oil), and East Enterprises (fuel tanks).

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